

**HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE  
COMMITTEES) AMENDMENT BILL 1989**

NEW SOUTH WALES



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)**

The object of this Bill is to amend the Health Administration Act 1982 to insert new provisions dealing with quality assurance committees established to evaluate and monitor health services and related services.

The main features of the new provisions are as follows:

- \* the Minister will be authorised to approve quality assurance committees established by public hospitals, area health services or certain other bodies;
- \* a committee cannot be approved unless it has specified functions (relating to the assessment and evaluation of services provided by health establishments) and it comprises persons with training and experience relevant to the services to be assessed;
- \* a committee is not to conduct investigations of individuals and its reports are not to identify individuals;
- \* restrictions are placed on the disclosure by members of information obtained in the exercise of their functions;
- \* members generally cannot be compelled to give evidence concerning matters that come to their notice as members;
- \* a recommendation by a committee that changes or improvements be made to a procedure or practice is not to be admissible as evidence that the procedure or practice is careless or inadequate;
- \* members of committees will be protected from personal liability (including liability in defamation proceedings) for things done in good faith while exercising their functions as members;
- \* the health establishments that set up committees will be required to indemnify members in respect of costs incurred in defending proceedings relating to any such liability;

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- \* regulations will be able to be made in connection with the procedure of committees, how they are to exercise their functions, reports by committees to the Minister and to the health establishments that set up the committees and the release of information to the public.
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**Clause 1** specifies the short title of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a proclaimed day.

**Clause 3** inserts proposed Division 6B into Part 2 of the Act and contains the provisions outlined above.

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